Production of Sponge Iron

4346. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether sponge iron productin in the country has been far below the installed capacity in most of the coal as well as gas based plants;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the production and for optimum utilisation of the installed capacity of the plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Pro duction of sponge iron in the country is mainly in the private sector. Non-availability of the required grades of some of the major raw materials has been reported to adversely affect the production. To improve the performance of the sponge iron units, the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973 has been amended with effect from 9.6.93 to allow development of captive mines by Iron and Steel manufacturers. This amendment also allows setting up of washeries for washing coal obtained from a mine. Besides this the Budget for 1994-95 has *inter-alia* reduced customs duty on iron ore pellets from 15% to 10% and on non- coking coal from 85% to 35%. Customs duty on iron ore pellets was further reduced to 5% from 26.4.1994.

Unauthorised Construction of Additional Floor by Allottees of C.H.B.S. (Sukhdev Vihar)

4347. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the building activity in respect of the Sarai Juliana C.H.B.S Ltd. (Sukhdev Vihar) was released in the year 1976 with clear condition that only the ground floor and Barsati floor is permissible due to density of the sewerage;

(b) whether the allottees have unauthorisedly constructed the entire first floor in connivance with the officials of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the erring officials of MCD as well as against the allottees of the above colony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P K. THUNGON): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Land rates for Dwarka Project

4348. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether DDA is charging Rs. 1110.43 per sq. mtr. from the various beneficiaries of Dwarka Project;

(b)is so, the basis for arriving at this breakeven rate; and

(c)the break-up of the components of this amount in terms of (i) cost of land, (ii) development of cost of internal and external road, (iii) cost of laying sewer, (iv) cost of electrification, (v) cost of development of parks etc. and (vi) other, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) The DDA has reported that Rs. 1100.43 per square metre was the break-even rate of land or the year 1992-93 for Dwarka Projects.

(d) Expeniture incurred in the past and that projected for the future has been discounted to the year 1992-93 to estimate the present economic cost of the project, which works out to Rs. 1141 crores for the project area of 1862 Hect. The cost is them brought over to the net saleable area, which is only 58% of the total project area. Besides, concession is given to weaker section and land to be allotted to institutions and public bodies. The corresponding accmulate amount of subsidy has to be loaded on to the other land uses. Based on these principles, the Cost Benefit Analysis of the Project has been done and the break even rate comes to Rs. 1100.43 per sqr. mtr.